

March 3, 2025

Testimony Before Ohio's Joint Commission on
Agency Rule Review (JCARR)

Zharon Van Meter

Passion & Purpose for Ohio Voiceless (PPOV)

RE: Passion & Purpose for Ohio Voiceless on OAC Rules: 901: 1-5-12 changes and rescinding of 901: 1-5-13

Passion & Purpose for Ohio Voiceless (PPOV) comes before the Joint Commission on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) to testify to the fact that the Ohio Department of Agriculture's (ODA) proposed OAC

901: 1-5-12 changes and rescinding of 901: 1-5-13

In Ohio, Canis Brucellosis was first discovered at a January 2011 dog auction held in Millersburg when a group of dogs were brought to the auction in a trunk of a car and were found to be affected with Canis Brucellosis. The dogs were euthanized.

Canis Brucellosis is a serious health issue in dogs and humans and is spreading because this bacteria disease is zoonotic and so many dogs are living among humans and in breeding kennels. In United States, breeding kennels are prevalent carriers, in other countries it's stray dogs. Those at risk are the breeders, rescuers, veterinarians, animal shelter employees and dog owners with children and owners with immune deficiencies. It's become a World issue. There is NO vaccine for either the infected dog or humans. Symptoms in humans are like the flu fever, aching, fatigue, loss of appetite, pregnant woman can abort their baby just like a female dog. Deaths are mainly from the effects on the human heart.

The first case was in New York when a 4-year-old little girl contracted the disease from her new puppy. In tracking the location of the breeder, the breeder was in Iowa, the entire kennel was euthanized.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25363807/>

In Canada a woman through rescue agreed to foster a "fly in" female pregnant dog from a foreign country, Belarus. The next day the pregnant dog aborted all the puppies throughout the house. Upon testing of the pregnant female dog had Canis brucellosis spreading to her four personal dogs also and all five dogs had to be euthanized. The woman contracted the disease and was hospitalized. The woman blames rescue. [Vets plea after first confirmed dog-to-human case of Brucella canis in UK - Somerset Live](#)

"Male dogs infected with brucellosis develop epididymitis, an infection in part of the testicle. A dog with a newly acquired infection will often have an enlarged scrotum or an enlarged testicle and may have a skin rash on the scrotum." "Typically, a pregnant dog with brucellosis will abort at 45-55 days of gestation or will give birth to stillborn or weak puppies that may die a few days after birth however, litters may

live. During the early stages of brucellosis, enlarged lymph nodes are sometimes seen, although fever is uncommon. Occasionally, *B. Canis* will infect the intervertebral discs, eyes, kidneys, heart or brain." <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/canine-brucellosis>

This serious disease is being **spread unknowingly** by rescue groups and shelters and breeders Worldwide. Dogs testing positive are recommended to be euthanized, however, an accepted practice the dog is spayed/neutered and must be quarantined for life.

In United States it is unknown of the true impact of this disease due to the **lack of testing and reporting**. Dogs and puppies are transported by rescuers and breeders sell over the internet weekly in United States. Are they tested by a licensed veterinarian and issued a valid health certificate? As an example, in Montana the spreading of canine brucellosis has increased to 100 dogs, several years ago only 10 dogs. <https://www.ktvq.com>.

Canis Brucellosis changes in the 901:1-5-12 by ODA in not testing all puppies 6 months and under is concerning due to the fact this little girl contracted this disease from her puppy. Why wouldn't it happen again? Canis Brucellosis changes in the 901:1-5-12 by ODA continues to not test all puppies 6 months and under.

At present ODA and breeders use the Rapid Slide Agglutination Test (RSAT) that detects antibodies to Brucella is often used as a screening testing that can show false positive. If a breeding dog is discovered in a kennel, the dog is immediately removed into quarantine and testing. The kennel by law ORC 901: 1-5-12. under quarantine for 60 days requiring a second test at 30 days and testing at 60 days. During this time no puppies are to be sold, or dogs leave and no new dogs in the kennel. The kennel immediately needs to be thoroughly disinfected to eradicate the bacteria disease. I do not have verification of this disinfection practice that has never been stated on any inspections by ODA.

Cornell University recently developed a high sensitivity 95% sure proof testing for Canis Brucellosis. Based on parallel testing of over 1500 diagnostic samples submitted for the Canine *Brucella* Slide Agglutination/AGID II combination testing, the sensitivity of the Canine *Brucella* Multiplex Assay is estimated to exceed 95%, greater than the sensitivity of a commonly used in-clinic RSAT screening tests. <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/about-us/news/20230412/new-development>

Texas A&M University <https://www.akcchf.org/educational-resources/library/articles/brucellosis-update.html> as well as the American

Kennel Club (AKC) working with Minnesota University <http://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/brucellosis-dog-breeders> are in the process of the development of a Canis brucellosis vaccine for the dogs. One Scottish Terrier breeder of her 32-year breeding program euthanized her entire kennel due to this disease that entered from an unknown new diseased dog. ODA reported over 70 positive cases from 2023-2024

Conclusion:

In the United States, almost half (46%) of all households own at least one dog. If this Canis Brucellosis disease was not considered “serious” then why is Texas A&M and AKC working to develop a vaccine? Why did Cornell University develop a more accurate testing method? Purdue University, in their Canine Care Certified program demands annual testing. [Information for Breeders - College of Veterinary Medicine - Purdue University](#) Canis Brucellosis is a serious underreported disease and the citizens in Ohio deserve to be educated.

If ODA would seize the egregious repetitive breeders and ban them from ever owning a dog/s, would it have an impact on the spreading of this disease? Remember this is a disease from bacteria. There are approximately 13 egregious repetitive breeders. Each high-volume commercial breeders by ORC: 956.03 (A) must carry a surety bond or insurance policy made out to ODA in the event of a seizure of a mill to cover costs. After all dogs and puppies are processed by licensed veterinarians’ examinations, the dogs are rehomed by rescue groups.

However, ODA has stated it clearly, **“They have never seized a kennel and never plan to”** Over the past 12 years ODA has successfully shredded major sections of ORC 901. Example, providing a manual to breeders to become wannabe veterinarians in allowing trimming of the dog’s ears and docking tails (on one inspection report states with rusty shears and on another docking tails with carpet knives). One breeder pulled seven teeth from a female dog and appeared by USDA inspectors report no medication. The female died. And yet, these repetitive egregious breeders were once again relicensed by ODA as well as many others. In 2024 ODA issued 70 fines to breeders compared to 35 the prior year, for serious non-compliant issues. Ohio is rated number two in United States with the most horrible dog breeders. <https://www.humaneworld.org/en/blog/our-horrible-hundred-report-exposes-100-puppy-mills-sell-pet-stores-and-online> Ohio in 2024 had the most USDA violations inspections <https://bailingoutbenji.com/usda-violations/> The Director of ODA makes the relicensing decision according to ORC 956.04-2 Why are these egregious repetitive kennels under the ODA management given passes? Is ODA supporting animal abuse? Are citizens given passes for animal abuse?

These decisions have created **serious no trust** and **moral issues** in the inefficient ODA management of these breeders. The breeders in numerous inspection reports support our **“no trust and moral issues”**.

PPOV believe dogs need their own Ohio Companion Animal Department with the efficient and accurate inspections conducted annually by a private inspection agency (such as Validus) providing reports sent directly to Ohio Department of Health (ODH) which would support ODH in keeping Ohio citizens safer from **all diseases**.

PPOV and many advocates are fed up with neglect and abuse these dogs continue to endure in the breeding kennels. The ODA budget for 2025 is 1.5 million. In 2026-2027 ODA's budget was cut by 10%. Why? When it is so apparent the dogs are not receiving the efficient and effective management of the Ohio breeders. We need more than a mere 4-5 inspectors to conduct efficient inspections. Not all kennels are inspected due to ORC: 946.04 (1)(2)(3). Reintroduction of HB539 is needed.

PPOV strongly urges JCARR to evaluate the effects on the spreading these changes to ODA's rule 901: 1-5-12 and rescinding of 901: 1-5-13 will have on this zoonotic disease to dogs and people.

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DEW Presentation to JCARR

March 3, 2025

Co-Chair Gavarone, Co-Chair Callender, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am Tony Palmer, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Education and Workforce. I am joined by Dr. Chris Woolard, Chief Integration Officer, for the Department. We are pleased to present to the Committee the Department's proposed revisions to the Report Card rules. As proposed, the rules provide a method to assign a performance rating to the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component of the state report card system. This component has not been rated for the past three school years. Our presentation outlines the statutory background regarding this component and the Department's proposed method for assigning a performance rating for the component. I will address the statutory background, and Dr. Woolard will present the Department's proposed rating method.

In 2021, the 134th General Assembly enacted House Bill 82, which revised the state report card system for school districts and public schools. House Bill 82 codified six components on the report card: (1) Gap Closing, (2) Achievement, (3) Progress, (4) Graduation, (5) Early Literacy, and (6) College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness. While the first five components have been rated in previous school years, the sixth component (College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness) has not been rated. That is because House Bill 82 specified that for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years, the Department would only report data for, and not assign a performance rating for, that component.

Section 3302.03 of the Revised Code (Division (D)(3)(f)) requires the Department to analyze the data for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years and then develop and propose rules for a method to assign a performance rating to the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness component.

Section 3302.03 also requires that the Department submit the rules to the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. That section requires the Committee to “conduct at least one public hearing on the proposed rules and approve or disapprove the rules.”

The statute then addresses how the component is handled based on the Committee’s decision. If the Committee *approves* the rules, the Department assigns a performance rating to the component beginning with the 2024-25 school year. The component rating also factors into the overall rating for a district or school. If the Committee *disapproves* the rules, the component is still included in the report card, but only as reported data; a performance rating would not be assigned for the component, and the component would not affect the overall rating.

In terms of process, the Department will be presenting the proposed rules to the Committee today. We understand that the Committee will potentially approve or disapprove of the rules at the Committee’s March 24 meeting.

I will now introduce Dr. Woolard with whom several of you are familiar. Dr. Woolard has been with the Department for over 20 years. During his time at the Department, Dr. Woolard led the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Prior to being the Chief Integration Officer at the Department, Dr. Woolard served as Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction for about a year and a half. He has been deeply involved in the development and implementation of the report card system, including the changes from House Bill 82. He will now present on the Department's proposed method for assigning a performance rating for the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Component.

College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness

Department of Education & Workforce

March 2025



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Statutory requirements
- Timeline
- Design of the readiness component

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

[Section 3302.03 - Ohio Revised Code](#)

The department shall **analyze the data** included in the performance measure prescribed in division (D)(1)(j) of this section for the **2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024** school years. Using that data, the department shall **develop and propose rules** for a method to **assign a performance rating** to the college, career, workforce, and military readiness component based on that measure. The method to assign a performance rating shall not include a tiered structure or per student bonuses. The rules shall specify that a district or building shall not receive lower than a performance rating of three stars for the component if the district's or building's performance on the component meets or exceeds a **level of improvement set by the department**. Notwithstanding division (D)(4)(b) of this section, more than half of the total districts and buildings may earn a performance rating of three stars on this component to account for the districts and buildings that earned a performance rating of three stars because they met or exceeded the **level of improvement set by the department**.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Section 3302.03 - Ohio Revised Code

The department shall **submit the rules** to the joint committee on agency rule review. The committee shall **conduct at least one public hearing** on the proposed rules and approve or disapprove the rules. If the committee approves the rules, the department shall adopt the rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. **If the rules are adopted**, the department shall assign a **performance rating** to the college, career, workforce, and military readiness component under the rules beginning with the **2024-2025 school year**, and for each school year thereafter. If the committee **disapproves the rules**, the component shall be included in the report card **only as reported data** for the 2024-2025 school year, and each school year thereafter.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

[Section 3302.03 - Ohio Revised Code](#)

(ii) If the joint committee on agency rule review approves the department's rules regarding the college, career, workforce, and military readiness component as described in division (D)(3)(f) of this section, **for the 2024-2025 school year, and each school year thereafter**, the department's method shall use the components in divisions (D)(3)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this section to **calculate the overall performance rating**. The method shall give equal weight to the components in divisions (D)(3)(b) and (c) of this section. The method shall give equal weight to the components prescribed in divisions (D)(3)(a), (d), (e), and (f) of this section. The individual weights of each of the components prescribed in divisions (D)(3)(a), (d), (e), and (f) of this section shall be equal to one-half the weight given to the component prescribed in division (D)(3)(b) of this section.

1

September 2024

Publish current rules for public comment:
3301-28-08 and 3301-28-10

2

October 2024

Draft revisions to the rule based on
public comments and post for
additional public comment

3

November 2024

Present draft rules at public meeting

4

December 2024

Present to House and Senate Education
Committees

5

February 2025

File rules, RSFA with JCARR

6

March 2025

JCARR hearing(s)

7

May 2025

File final rules; Present rating structure
and technical details to the field

8

September 2025

CCWMR rating available publicly and
included with the overall rating



DESIGN OF THE READINESS COMPONENT

Ways to Demonstrate Post-Secondary Readiness

Received an **ACT or SAT Remediation Free** score

Received an **Honors Diploma**

Any combination of 3 or more **Advanced Placement** OR **International Baccalaureate** tests with qualifying scores

Earned at least **12 College Credits**

Enlisted in the **Military**

Earned at least **12 Industry Recognized Credential points** in a single career field OR holds a **State Recognized License**

Evidence of **acceptance into an apprenticeship program** after high school (for students 18 and older)

Completed a **Pre-Apprenticeship**

Completed an **Apprenticeship**

Achieved proficiency on 3 or more **technical assessments** in a single career pathway

Obtained an **Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal** **AND** has **250 hours of internship/approved work-based learning**

Post-Secondary Readiness Calculation

Total number of students in the four-year adjusted graduation rate cohort who demonstrate post-secondary readiness in at least **one** way

Total number of students in the four-year adjusted graduation rate cohort

College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Percentage

EXAMPLE CALCULATION

Demonstration of Postsecondary Readiness	Student 1	Student 2	Student 3	Student 4
Received an ACT Remediation Free score OR Received an SAT Remediation Free score	Yes	No	No	No
Received an Honors Diploma	No	No	No	No
Any combination of three or more Advanced Placement OR International Baccalaureate tests with qualifying scores	Yes	No	No	Yes
Earned at least 12 credential points in a single career field OR Holds a State recognized license	No	Yes	No	No
Earned twelve or more College Career Plus Credits	No	No	No	No
Enlisted in the Military	No	No	No	No
Has been accepted into an apprenticeship program post high school	No	No	No	No
Completed a pre-apprenticeship	No	No	No	No
Completed an apprenticeship	No	Yes	No	No
Achieved proficiency on three or more technical assessments in a single path	No	No	No	No
Obtained an Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal And has 250 hours of internship / Work based learning	No	No	No	No
Met Readiness	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Total students in Four Year Graduation Cohort who demonstrated readiness in at least one CCWMR measure

Number of students in Four Year Graduation Cohort

3 students

4 students

College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Percentage

CCWMR
75%



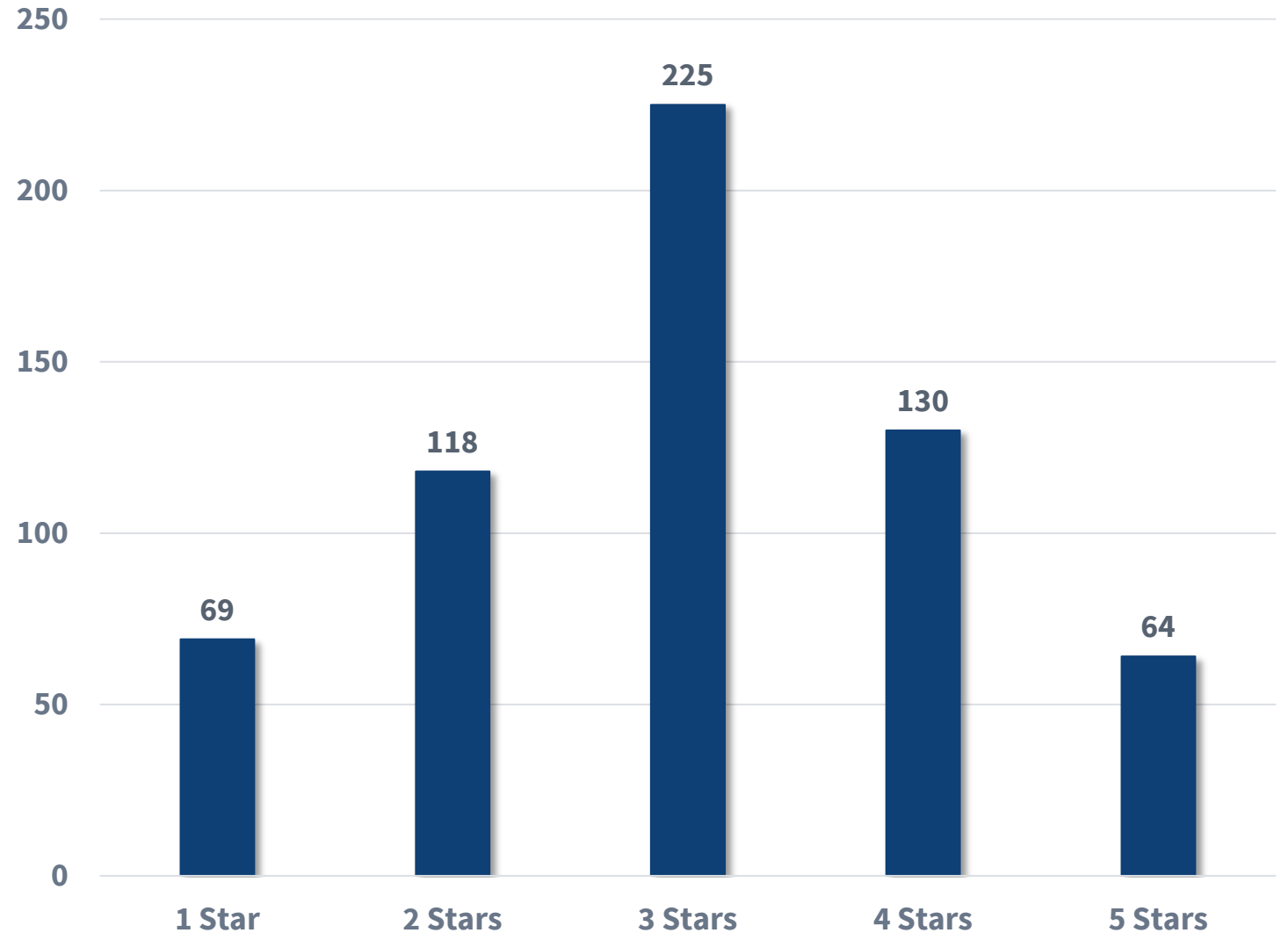
Ways to Demonstrate Post-Secondary Readiness	2023 Graduating Class	2024 Graduating Class
Received an ACT or SAT Remediation Free score	19.6%	18.8%
Received an Honors Diploma	18.1%	18.9%
Any combination of 3 or more Advanced Placement OR International Baccalaureate tests with qualifying scores	6.7%	6.9%
Earned at least 12 College Credits	13.8%	16%
Enlisted in the Military	0.2%	0.3%
Earned at least 12 Industry Recognized Credential points in a single career field OR holds a State Recognized License	19.5%	25.6%
Evidence of acceptance into an apprenticeship program after high school (for students 18 and older)	0.0%	0.1%
Completed a Pre-Apprenticeship	1.1%	2.1%
Completed an Apprenticeship	0.1%	0.2%
Achieved proficiency on 3 or more technical assessments in a single career pathway	22.3%	24.1%
Obtained an Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal AND has 250 hours of internship/approved work-based learning	3.1%	5.4%



RATING SCALE

Scale	Rating
Less than 53%	1 Star
53% - less than 63%	2 Stars
63% - less than 75%	3 Stars
75% - less than 85%	4 Stars
85% - 100%	5 Stars

CCWMR DISTRICT DISTRIBUTION



RATING SCALE

Scale	Rating
Less than 53%	1 Star
53% - less than 63%	2 Stars
63% - less than 75%	3 Stars
75% - less than 85%	4 Stars
85% - 100%	5 Stars

Even though there appears to be a very different distribution for buildings, this is due to the **One district: Many buildings** ratio. Over 75% 1-star buildings are in a 1-star district. Across all star levels, 94% of buildings have the same or higher star rating than their district.

CCWMR BUILDING DISTRIBUTION



PERFORMANCE AND LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT

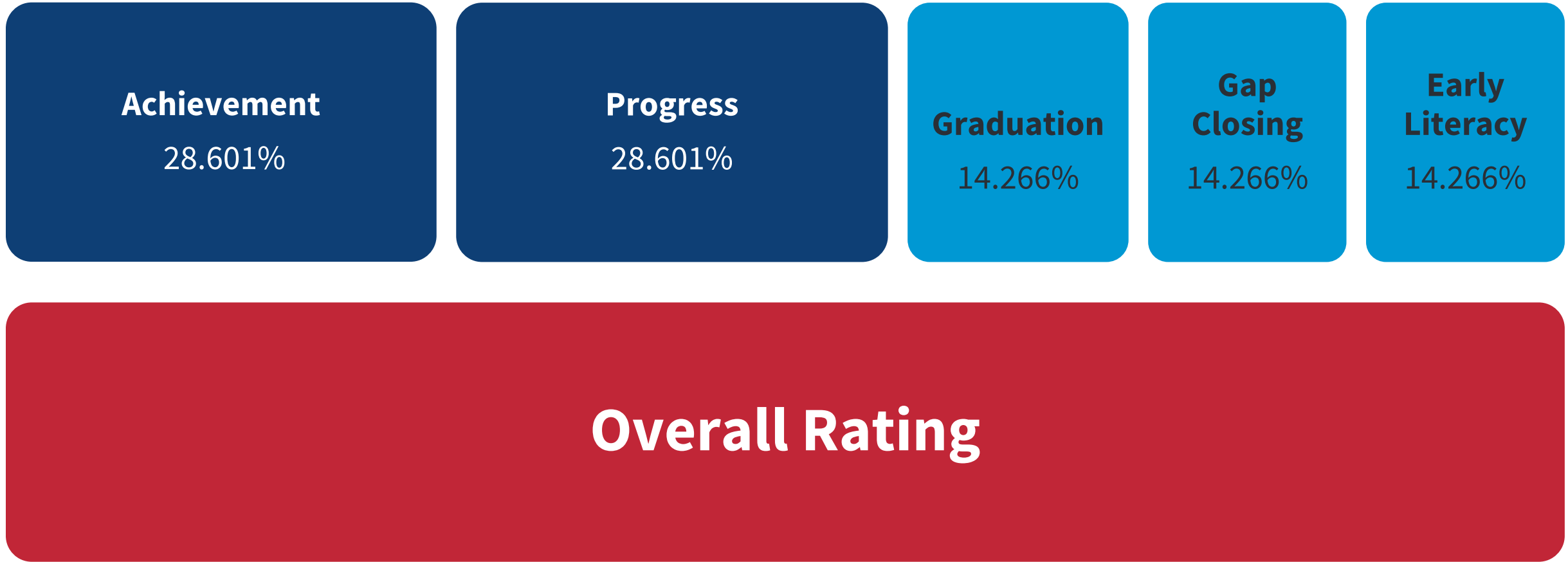
The rules shall specify that a district or building shall not receive **lower than a performance rating of three stars** for the component if the district's or building's performance on the component meets or exceeds a **level of improvement set by the department.**”

Level of Improvement

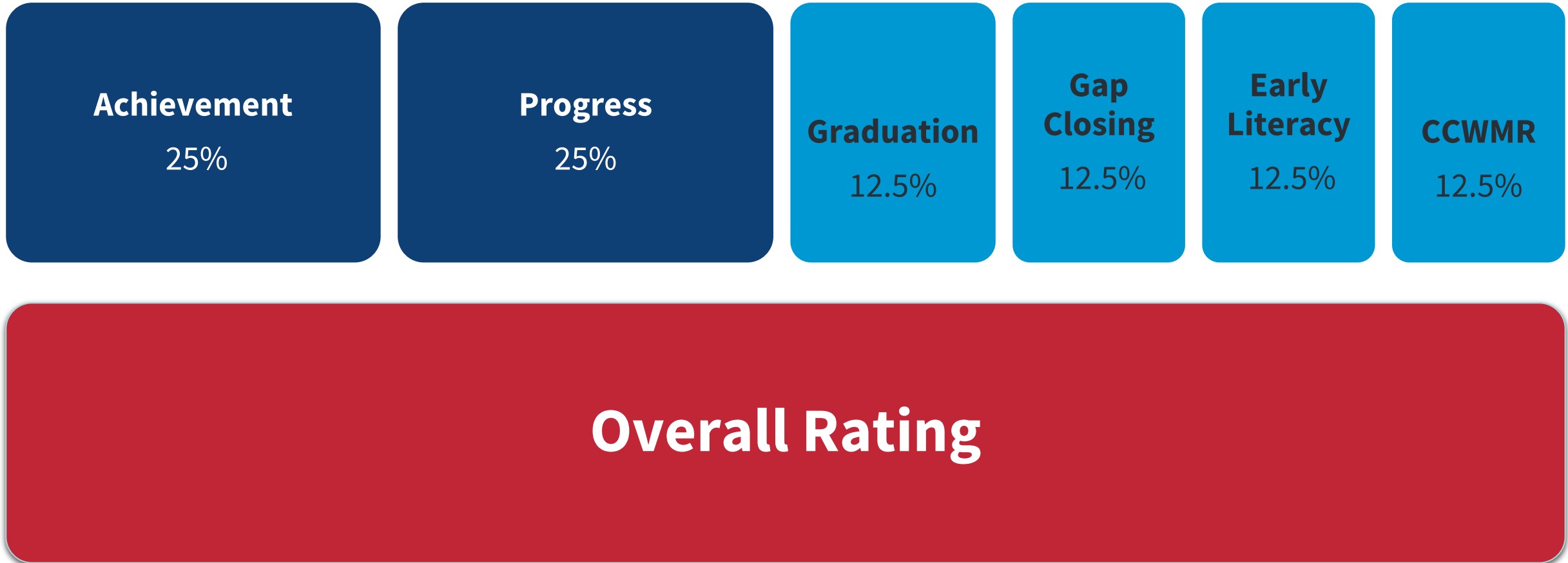
- Only applicable to districts/buildings who have an initial rating of under 3 stars
- Level of improvement set at 15 percentage points

Rating Scale	Rating
0%- less than 53%	1 Star
53% - less than 63%	2 Stars
63% - less than 75%	3 Stars
75% - less than 85%	4 Stars
85% - 100%	5 Stars

CURRENT WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION



FUTURE WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION



QUESTIONS?

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

